

# Rachmaninoff 'Overwhelmed' By Valley Hospitality; Mistake By Hotel Showers Him With Food And Fruit

## Porter Mixed Up In Deliveries, Noted Pianist Gains

By GEORGE WRIGHT

HARLINGEN — They literally overwhelmed Sergei Rachmaninoff with Valley hospitality at the Madison Hotel, soon after the pianist arrived Thursday for his concert here that evening.

Rachmaninoff had hardly gotten settled in his suite, before they loaded him with unexpected amounts of Valley eatables. With result the whole Madison staff has had continuous attacks of laughter since the event occurred.

### Too Many Musicians

The whole thing started when a porter got his musicians mixed. The Cabana entertainers were taking off during the day for a little visit with their people; so the hotel had its chef fix up a lunch for them. Then the porter was told to take the lunch "to the musicians."

The porter promptly lugged the big cracker box containing gobs of sandwiches, potato salad and a solid quart of orange juice, up to Rachmaninoff's suite.

"Such hospitality!" the amazed pianist gasped. "But I can't eat it all!" He looked again at the cracker box; then handed some of the food back to the porter with instructions to eat part of it and give part to the elevator boy.

Meanwhile, the management, blissfully unaware of the mistake, sent Rachmaninoff a bushel of grapefruit.

"What do these people think I am?" the pianist blurted, when he saw the bushel of prime Valley fruit. "Well, I guess though that I can ship the fruit home; but I can't ship the sandwiches!"

When the Loeb's and Bryans and others downstairs heard the whole story a few minutes later, the hotel lobby became a madhouse, with people weak with laughter falling into chairs and trying to get their breath. The porter who made the mistake had a busy afternoon, frequently being requested to repeat Rachmaninoff's remarks, a signal for a fresh gale of laughter.

## Chief Meets Chief



Frank Williams, state fire chief, in charge of the annual firemen's school of instruction at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, is shown above shaking hands with Harlingen Fire Chief Jake Childress (left), during Williams' visit Thursday. During his tour of inspection over the Valley, Williams was feted at Edinburg by 80 firemen of this section. Williams lauded the fire prevention work of Valley departments. (Staff Photo.)